

3/11/58

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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In the Matter of

SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT  
APPOINTMENTS BE MADE AND  
ADVISORY BOARD BE ACTIVATED  
(Continued from 2/11 meeting)

Item No. 140  
Delivered... 3/24/58

33 of 3/11/58  
Transc. of Request of Hahn

Copies to:

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HAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FORD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHACE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DORN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

March 11, 1958 *Counselor in Mental Health*

REPORTER'S PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Burton W. Chace, Chairman  
Warren M. Dorn  
John Anson Ford  
Kenneth Hahn

APPEARANCES:

L. S. Hollinger, Chief Administrative  
Officer  
John Maharg, Deputy County Counsel  
Gordon Nesvig, Chief Clerk

Wallace H. Larsen  
Reporter

*File Copy*

1                   Hearing before the Board of Supervisors of  
2 Los Angeles County in the Matter of: Submitting nomina-  
3 tions for Mental Health Advisory Board with recommendation  
4 that appointments be made and Advisory Board be activated.  
5 (Continued from 2/11 meeting).

6                   CHAIRMAN CHACE: Let's talk about mental  
7 health. We have quite a number in the group present here  
8 this morning, I see a dozen or more, that have said they  
9 want to address the Board. I think we should accommodate  
10 the folks if they are here.

11                   If it meets with the approval of the Board  
12 members, I would suggest we jump and take No. 140 on the  
13 agenda.

14                   SUPERVISOR DORN: Has this been called for  
15 a public hearing?

16                   CHAIRMAN CHACE: Mr. Dorn has just asked  
17 if this calls for a public hearing. Let's have your at-  
18 tention, please. It hasn't been proposed a public hearing.

19                   SUPERVISOR DORN: Mr. Chairman, as far as  
20 I am concerned, if we are going to have people speak to  
21 any matter before this Board, there should be ample ad-  
22 vertisement held and time given for interested parties from  
23 both sides and a regular hearing should be held.

24                   CHAIRMAN CHACE: This was up four weeks ago  
25 for consideration, and we were requested by a number of  
26 individuals present who wanted time to review. Now they

1 are here this morning and would like to address the Board.  
2 We got a list here. There are eight on the list that have  
3 contacted. We have eight individuals here that want to  
4 address the Board on this matter. Now, what is the Board's  
5 desire?

6 SUPERVISOR FORD: Mr. Chairman, apparently,  
7 somewhat to my surprise, this is quite controversial, and  
8 I think it would be much fairer to people concerned, if we  
9 are going to have a more or less semi-formal hearing, that  
10 the proponents of this project be present so they can have  
11 a first-hand knowledge as to the arguments against it. I  
12 am not prepared to take up the necessary--obviously we  
13 can't meet the requirements of these people or requirements  
14 of the supporters of the project in five or ten minutes.  
15 I think a courtesy to everybody concerned would be to set  
16 it over for a later date.

17 CHAIRMAN CHACE: It does seem to be highly  
18 controversial Mr. Ford.

19 SUPERVISOR DORN: Are both sides here this  
20 morning?

21 CHAIRMAN CHACE: How many in opposition to  
22 this program, will you stand so we can see. Well, that  
23 doesn't leave very many present that would be for it.  
24 Thank you, now you can be seated. Now let's see if there  
25 is anyone here in support of the program. Apparently it's  
26 all in opposition. Of course, there was no way of knowing

1 for anyone to be present; that is, the Board issued none.

2 SUPERVISOR DORN: Do these people have  
3 someone who can speak for all of them?

4 CHAIRMAN CHASE: No. There are eight of  
5 them that indicated that they want to be heard.

6 SUPERVISOR DORN: It's a shame to ask them  
7 all to come back.

8 CHAIRMAN CHACE: I don't know as we should.

9 SUPERVISOR FORD: I had no conception this  
10 was going to be--I have no opinion on this whole matter  
11 as far as that is concerned. I had no conception this  
12 was going to be in the nature of a public demonstration.  
13 But, out of my past experience in fairness to the other  
14 side and apparently there is another side because this is  
15 a result, if I am properly informed, of legislation which  
16 has received approval in Sacramento. I would like to give  
17 --if there was one gentleman, somebody who could speak fr  
18 this group and set a time when we can have a real hearing.

19 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Is this gentleman prepared  
20 to speak in support of the program? Support or against  
21 it?

22 VOICE: Against it.

23 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Just a minute. Let's  
24 talk among the Board members and see how we want to pro-  
25 ceed.

26 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Mr. Chairman, and Members

1 of the Board, our office--I guess each Supervisor received  
2 many communications from people concerning this project.  
3 Most of the postcards tha I have received said, "vote  
4 against the Short-Doyle Act." Some of them even said that  
5 it was communistic inspired and trend to socialized medicine,  
6 and some of the other cards received just said, "Vote  
7 against the Short-Doyle Act. We don't want any mental  
8 health program in Los Angeles County."

9 Now, for the information of the Board and  
10 the public that is here, the provisions of the state law  
11 introduced by Senator Short and Assemblyman Doyle, one a  
12 Democrat and one a Republican, introduced the Short-Doyle  
13 Act in the last session of the Legislature. The Legisla-  
14 ture voted for it and the Governor signed the Bill. And,  
15 as I understand it from the information received just in  
16 the past week that there was considerable opposition to it  
17 in Sacramento. Maybe some of you people went up there.  
18 How many went up there to Sacramento? Some went up to  
19 Sacramento and opposed it.

20 Now this Bill as I have read it states the  
21 following. It states that every county in California, or  
22 any community with fifty tousand population or more, either  
23 a city or county at large could set up a mental health  
24 clinical program where citizens could voluntarily go on  
25 their own free will.

26 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Let's have your attention

1 please.

2 SUPERVISOR HAHN: To go on their own free  
3 will to go to a clinic to receive counseling for mental  
4 and nervous problems. Also, it provides that the Chairman  
5 of the Board of every county where they institute the pro-  
6 grams should be a member of the advisory Board. That the  
7 judge of the Superior Court should designate a member, the  
8 judge of the Superior Court that the director of the pro-  
9 gram should be a medical doctor and that there should be  
10 on the board, a seven man board which the three that I  
11 have already said should be on it plus two outstanding citi-  
12 zens and Los Angeles Medical Society, fully recognized in  
13 the society of this County has nominated three people.  
14 The Los Angeles County Medical Society has nominated indi-  
15 viduals to serve on it.

16 The Mental Health Foundation or Mental  
17 Hygiene Foundation have nominated some outstanding communit  
18 citizens to serve on this board.

19 Now the Act itself states that the County  
20 shall be reimbursed at fifty-fifty proposition for the  
21 operation of it. They won't be building any buildings,  
22 just as I understand the program would be to offer this  
23 service for the community for the individuals who need  
24 help.

25 Now on this count alone we had twenty-five  
26 thousand divorces granted to people who couldn't get along

more than twenty-five thousand. Once they get to a divorce court and file with their attorney for the proceedings, very few cases in the court have reconciliations, can do the jobs of preventing the divorces. They go so far that they almost go ahead and complete it.

There are many people suffering from tension and strain and that the legislature adopted this program making available, and the governor signed it made available to the people of California this counseling program.

Now there has been some misinformation and not downright misrepresentation to the fact this Bill would be a--someone came to my church last Sunday a week ago Sunday and said, "Mr. Hahn, you are a fine man and all that; but if this Bill goes through, you could ship us to Alaska if we don't vote." I have never heard of such a thing.

There is another provision where we can compel people to go into an institution and be sent to Norwalk and Camerillo, and I told them that the only person that can do that is a court judge. It couldn't be an advisory board. The advisory board would be to set up this program.

Now I suggest that we continue this matter and that the Clerk, and I am going to so move to make copies of the Short-Doyle Bill that everyone should read.

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the Bill and read what the State Legislature passed and then and what the County is doing and also--if it's wrong, we want to be told about it. If it's right, then I think everyone should know about it. And I think that also both sides, the Mental Health Foundation should be given an opportunity to hear about it and present their facts with the competent medical people to demonstrate what is planned.

Now, maybe we only heard one side of this, and maybe there is two sides to it, but I certainly am in favor of a public hearing and certainly in favor of everyone reading the Bill, and I am certainly in favor of every citizen, if they don't like it, have the right to object to it and point out its errors and if it's wrong, we shouldn't adopt it, and if it's right, we should.

CHAIRMAN CHACE: Mr. Dorn has asked for the floor.

SUPERVISOR DORN: Mr. Chairman, as I recall the legislation referred to as the Short-Doyle Act is a permissive act. I wonder if the County Counsel could correct me if I am wrong.

MR. MAHARG: It isn't a mandatory--it isn't something that this County Board of Supervisors must adopt at this time, and as far as I am personally concerned, I think that until there is a greater demonstration of a need for such a program to be installed here in our County, I



1 would just like to see the matter laid on the table. I  
2 think Mr. Hahn's suggestion is a good one that the clerk be  
3 instructed to give to any and all interested persons copies  
4 of the Bill and perhaps it might be well to have along with  
5 these copies an explanation as to how this might be im-  
6 plimented or carried out in a program here in the County.  
7 But, I think myself at this time, there is carried on by  
8 the various doctors and private physicians and psycholo-  
9 gists and psychiatrists ample treatment for those who need  
10 it and I don't like to see ourselves involved in a large  
11 bureaucratic situation unless there is a greater need demon-  
12 strated.

13 CHAIRMAN CHACE: I am going to have to ask  
14 your co-operation please and refrain from applause.

15 SUPERVISOR DORN: I think there is certainly  
16 a lot of misunderstanding and some misinformation concern-  
17 ing the effect of the implimentation of such a program,  
18 but as far as I am concerned, personally concerned, unless  
19 and until there is a greater demonstration of a need, I  
20 think the Board would be acting wisely to carry on as we  
21 are supporting our programs that we have presently going  
22 on.

23 Certainly we are all interested in and all  
24 trying to contribute to the betterment of the mental health  
25 program of our County and in the various communities of  
26 our County, and I don't like to see us become involved in

1 a thing of this kind before a greater need is demonstrated.

2 CHAIRMAN CHACE: All right, you have spo-  
3 ken very frankly. Let's hear Mr. Ford. Do you care to  
4 comment.

5 SUPERVISOR FORD: I feel--first of all, I  
6 wonder if Mr. Dorn is fully acquainted with all the dis-  
7 tressing facts regarding the mental health situation. Also,  
8 I am very anxious to hear what these protestants have to  
9 say because, as I said before, I don't know the merits of  
10 this case. I don't know the situation, but I am aware,  
11 and I think even some of the demonstration here emphasizes  
12 that there is a great mental disturbance. Speaking some-  
13 what facetiously, but the whole question of treating of  
14 mental diseases is one of the great scientific challenges  
15 of our today and I don't know what the answer is, but Mr.  
16 Dorn, our present method of handling this is costly and  
17 ineffective and overrules in a great many tragedies.

18 All you have to do is go over to the mental  
19 health hospital and talk with any of the people over there  
20 or any of the judges who have presided. Now how we are  
21 going to improve this is another questions, but I am anx-  
22 ious to hear and listen with an open mind to these protest-  
23 ants.

24 I am disturbed about one thing and that is  
25 perhaps and maybe their arguments are sound, but the ac-  
26 cusations made this is communist inspired and how that

1 could be it seems to me I don't conceive of it, but it  
2 may be so. Maybe the Governor has been deluded, maybe  
3 the majority of the legislature has been deluded, but  
4 maybe the Los Angeles Medical Society have all been deluded  
5 and nobody sees the truth except people like yourselves,  
6 but I am willing to listen with an open mind, but it is  
7 a very grave problem, Mr. Dorn and members of the Board.  
8 This whole question of mental illness is costly and neces-  
9 sary to society, the tragedy that comes and possibilities  
10 of remedy I think are very great just as we have painfully  
11 explored the possibilities of surgery and medicine. So,  
12 there must be channels in which we can help heal the dis-  
13 turbed minds and that is my concern.

14 I agree with Mr. Hahn that we should give  
15 everybody an opportunity to be heard adequately, and we  
16 should have a special hearing.

17 CHAIRMAN CHACE: I might comment briefly.  
18 There is one defect in the Act that I think should be cor-  
19 rected and that is to the effect that the present time any  
20 city in the County of fifty thousand or more population  
21 can initiate their own program. Well, if they do, they  
22 are still assessed and pay for the County-wide program  
23 which to me seems very unfair.

24 I think that the Act should be at least  
25 amended to eliminate that undesirable feature.

26 SUPERVISOR FORD: Overlapping taxation.

1                   CHAIRMAN CHACE: Overlapping taxation,  
2                   yes. I am going to speak very briefly. I haven't very  
3                   much to say on this particular subject itself. It is a  
4                   broad subject and I agree with Mr. Dorn. At the present  
5                   time the matter should be held in advance.

6                   I don't think we are justified even at the  
7                   moment to call a public hearing. That is my frank think-  
8                   ing on the matter. I would like to see it tabled and held  
9                   in advance. I think the Legislature is going to make some  
10                  amendments to the Bill. I am satisfied there will be some  
11                  amendments made that will be beneficial, so I think, per-  
12                  haps at this session, yes, so I think it should be just  
13                  held in advance.

14                  I think the state is going to continue to  
15                  give financial help to the County as it has in the past.  
16                  At least we are not going to lose any financial help from  
17                  the state. If it becomes apparent we are going to lose that  
18                  then we have a different situation that needs correction,  
19                  but right for the moment, I would like to see the matter  
20                  just put on the table and held in advance. That is exactly  
21                  what I think.

22                  SUPERVISOR HAHN: When you mean put on the  
23                  table--Some of these citizens--

24                  CHAIRMAN CHACE: No action.

25                  SUPERVISOR HAHN: You mean not to do any-  
26                  thing for the mental health program on the Short-Doyle act.

1 CHAIRMAN CHACE: At the present time.

2 SUPERVISOR HAHN: You don't feel there is  
3 any need for this program.

4 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Well, that is putting it  
5 a little bluntly, but could be argued of course, but I  
6 don't believe I am prepared to answer that yes or no at  
7 the moment. I think I made myself very clear in my re-  
8 marks Mr. Hahn.

9 Maybe we should have a full Board before  
10 we make a decision on this. Apparently we are somewhat  
11 divided. It is about two to two, but the matter before us  
12 right for the moment is, shall we hold this matter in ad-  
13 vance or do you want to hear from the folks here?

14 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I think we could.

15 CHAIRMAN CHACE: We could take ten or  
16 twenty minutes perhaps and limit these folks if they would  
17 like to address us. I would suggest twenty minutes.  
18 Does that meet with the approval of the Board?

19 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Just a minute and I will  
20 make a motion. As you indicated, only one side is here.  
21 Now I want the facts from both sides. I certainly want  
22 to hear from the people who sponsored this program. I  
23 certainly think that the Mental Hygiene Foundation, I think  
24 the medical society of this County, that the proper author-  
25 ities should have an opportunity to express themselves, and  
26 I don't think there should be any hysterical action or

1 one-sided point of view, or just adopting something here  
2 that does not reflect the truth or does not reflect the  
3 problem. I am going to move that we set a proper time so  
4 that both sides will have an opportunity to come and give  
5 a public notice so everyone interested can be here rather  
6 than just the people who are against it. Now I think that  
7 is nothing but fair and I will move that we give four weeks  
8 or six weeks. Give ample time for everyone to arrange  
9 their calendar to be here at a set time. I suggest maybe  
10 on a Thursday morning.

11 MR. NESVIG: The third and seventeenth of  
12 April and tenth and twenty-fourth are open. The first of  
13 April, but we have a meeting on the third and seventh.

14 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Mr. Ford, you are going  
15 on vacation. Will you be back?

16 SUPERVISOR FORD: I will be back before the  
17 seventh.

18 SUPERVISOR HAHN: All right, we will make  
19 it the seventh of April.

20 CHAIRMAN CHACE: I think it would be a  
21 mistake to make it on a regular meeting day. I think it  
22 should be set at another time.

23 MR. NESVIG: The tenth is open or the twenty-  
24 fourth.

25 SUPERVISOR HAHN: The twenty-fourth of  
26 April; that will give everybody an opportunity to be present,

1 and if these people here who are here have something we  
2 should know about, I want you to publically state it over  
3 this microphone so everyone can hear it, and the truth  
4 will come out. If you have something we should know, I  
5 certainly want you to tell us.

6 MR. NESVIG: The twenty-fourth of April.

7 SUPERVISOR HAHN: This will give ample time.

8 VOICE: Could we have at least two months,  
9 at least two months. That will give the opposition ample  
10 time.

11 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Well, six weeks or two  
12 months absolutely makes no difference to me.

13 MR. NESVIG: Mr. Hahn, I would like to call  
14 to your attention that we will have salary hearing and  
15 other budgetary matters in May. I recommend we don't have  
16 it in May.

17 SUPERVISOR FORD: Budget in May and June.

18 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I don't see any reason--  
19 what about April twenty-fourth?

20 SUPERVISOR DORN: Could I ask a question  
21 Mr. Chairman?

22 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Don't you think, Mr. Hahn,  
23 we should let these people speak very briefly this morn-  
24 ing? They made a special trip in here. I don't want to  
25 go into any lengthy discourse, but if we could, say ten  
26 or twenty minutes, put a limited time on them.

1 SUPERVISOR FORD: I shall object. Fifteen  
2 or twenty minutes constitutes an extended hearing. Now  
3 that isn't fair to the opposition. We are trying to give  
4 both sides an opportunity to be heard. I don't think it is  
5 fair to have a presentation of fifteen or twenty minutes  
6 that would probably run to even more without the opposition  
7 being here.

8 CHAIRMAN CHACE: All right, we have a motion  
9 before us. Will you state your motion against Mr. Hahn.

10 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Well, you heard the Clerk  
11 state in May that the Board will be discussing full hear-  
12 ings on the salaries and budget. Is that correct?

13 MR. NESVIG: That is correct.

14 SUPERVISOR HAHN: To give ample time so  
15 you people won't have a few minutes, so you will have  
16 ample time, right now I move for the April --

17 MR. NESVIG: April twenty-fourth at nine-  
18 thirty A.M.

19 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Then in the meantime will  
20 the Clerk make copies of the Short-Doyle Act and if any  
21 citizen wants them, you write to the Clerk of the Board  
22 and he will send you one.

23 VOICE: I would still like to ask for two  
24 months.

25 CHAIRMAN CHACE: I am sorry, I don't believe  
26 we can recognize anyone present. It seems to be the wish



1 of the Board that we confine our remarks to just the mem-  
2 bers themselves here this morning, so I don't believe I  
3 can recognize anyone present until we see what the nature  
4 of the motion is going to be here and Mr. Dorn has asked  
5 for the floor. Be patient and take your seats.

6 SUPERVISOR DORN: What I would like to know  
7 is how this was placed on the agenda. How did this--who  
8 initiated or how was this brought to the Board's attention  
9 so that we are now discussing it on the agenda? Was this  
10 done by a group of people?

11 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Can the Clerk answer that  
12 please.

13 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Mr. Chairman, if the Super-  
14 visor of the Fifth District will recall if he was here and  
15 thinking, this was up on the subject four weeks ago and  
16 had some citizens in the audience who wanted to continue  
17 this for four weeks.

18 SUPERVISOR DORN: No, no, I mean originally.

19 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Originally I brought in  
20 a resolution following out the Short-Doyle Act. It was  
21 called to attention by the Mental Health Department. The  
22 law was effective, I believe, October eleventh of last  
23 year. It was passed at the last legislature and no law  
24 is enforced until ninety days after the legislature adjourns,  
25 then it was September eleventh.

26 SUPERVISOR DORN: Well, you answered the

1 question. It came to the Board as a request from the  
2 Mental Health.

3 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Who did the communication  
4 come from?

5 MR. NESVIG: It was the Board's instruction,  
6 Mr. Hahn's motion requesting the counselor of Mental  
7 Health to advise the Board of the method of setting up  
8 this program which they did in a letter of January thirty-  
9 first, but was before the Board on February eleventh and  
10 at that time it was continued four weeks until this date.

11 SUPERVISOR DORN: Has it been recommended  
12 by any department of the County Government that the County  
13 Board adopt such a program as is called for in the Short-  
14 Doyle Act?

15 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I am sure you have a letter  
16 from Mrs. McGuinnis, the director of the Mental Health  
17 Department and if you have read that--

18 SUPERVISOR DORN: But I recall this was  
19 referred to her by the Board, wasn't it?

20 SUPERVISOR HAHN: That is right, and she  
21 wrote a report and she did recommend it and I believe the  
22 CAO approved the recommendations.

23 SUPERVISOR DORN: In other words, the Board  
24 has a recommendation from Miss McGuinnis and Mr. Hollinger  
25 to proceed with the appointment of a board, is that right?

26 MR. HOLLINGER: That is correct. We have

1 the suggested names which were presented by Mrs. McGuinnis  
2 for consideration of the Board.

3 SUPERVISOR DORN: What was that?

4 MR. HOLLINGER: Mrs. McGuinnis submitted  
5 the names of candidates on an order of the Board which is  
6 a part of Mr. Hahn's original resolution that you adopted  
7 October 29.

8 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I think you recall that  
9 the Board asked the Mental Health Department to give their  
10 recommendations and follow out the procedures of the state  
11 law on this matter. Now, if we are going to do everything  
12 on this Board in order and in conformity to the state law  
13 and no one is going to either object to the program just  
14 for objecting sake, but if there is a state law passed by  
15 the legislature of California and signed by the Governor  
16 that this service is available to the community in it and  
17 the wisdom of the Legislature they passed this law after  
18 full debate and offered this service to every county  
19 in California, I think we would be remiss in our duty  
20 if we did not get a recommendation from our Mental Health  
21 Department to see if it is worthy of this County or not  
22 and also the recommendations of our Medical authority in  
23 this field.

24 CHAIRMAN CHACE: All right, we have a motion  
25 before us by Supervisor Hahn that we hold an informal  
26 hearing on this matter of Mental Health at nine-thirty A.M.

1 on April 24, here in the Board room. Now we cannot ad-  
2 vertise this in any way at all. It would be just by press  
3 notice I presume. Mr. Maharg, what would be the legal  
4 status of the matter?

5 MR. MAHARG: I think the Clerk could get  
6 the co-operation of the press and notify any interested  
7 parties who requested notification.

8 CHAIRMAN CHACE: To be a strictly informal  
9 hearing.

10 MR. MAHARG: That it would.

11 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Any other comments?

12 SUPERVISOR DORN: I am going to make a  
13 substitute motion that the matter of the Board's partici-  
14 pation in the provisions provided for in a permissive  
15 Bill called the Short-Doyle Act be referred to the Citi-  
16 zen's Hospital Committee for their pursual and recommend  
17 to the Board. It seems to me that we are not yet--there  
18 has not been a need demonstrated or required for action  
19 at this time and I think we have a Hospital Committee that  
20 is concerned with carrying out for people in this County,  
21 carrying out programs for their necessary needs. And its  
22 being a very good committee has been stated earlier today,  
23 and I think they should be given a chance to review the  
24 benefits that might be derived from such a program, and  
25 make a recommendation to the Board as to the need of such  
26 a program, and therefore move the matter be referred to

1 that committee for their pursual and recommendation to  
2 the Board.

3 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Any comment?

4 SUPERVISOR FORD: I think perhaps they  
5 should be invited to share in the hearing. Are you sub-  
6 stituting--this is a substitute Mr. Hahn's motion that  
7 we hold no hearing and let them decide for us.

8 SUPERVISOR DORN: I think if the Committee  
9 were to come back after reviewing the facts and after  
10 showing there is a need, then I think the Board should  
11 publicize a hearing and hold a hearing for both sides to  
12 be heard and the Board take action after that. I think  
13 we are moving on this thing too quickly in my opinion  
14 and I want to make it very clear. Mr. Hahn thinks I am  
15 critical of him. I was not. I was trying to find out  
16 how this thing started.

17 Now just because the State Legislature in  
18 its wisdom passes a permissive act which they do every day  
19 of the Legislature when they are in session is no reason  
20 why this Board, as a governing body of this County, has  
21 to adopt all of these acts. In my opinion it is our duty  
22 to be responsive to the need of our people, and I don't  
23 find a need at this time for this kind of legislation.  
24 Therefore, I would like to have it referred to the proper  
25 committee and then come back for hearings and then take  
26 action.

1 SUPERVISOR HAHN: You know, Mr. Dorn, I  
2 have not objected to having it referred to this Committee.  
3 I think it is a wise suggestion. Then by this hearing six  
4 weeks away the Committee can meet and review it and we  
5 will have our public hearing and the report of our Hospi-  
6 tal Committee. I think this will either strengthen this  
7 report or the Committees say that it shouldn't be adopted.  
8 If the Committee of our hospital said it shouldn't be  
9 adopted, than that shall answer many of the problems that  
10 are before us. I think we should use the Citizen's Com-  
11 mittee.

12 SUPERVISOR DORN: That is my substitute  
13 motion to be referred to that Committee for their pursual  
14 of the Bill as it might effect the County and people of  
15 the County and its recommendation this Board should look  
16 into the possibilities of such a program, then we should  
17 call for such a hearing and hear both sides giving ample  
18 time to a special day for that hearing.

19 I am not ready to move into it now just  
20 because the legislature happened to pass a permissive act.  
21 They passed them by the dozens.

22 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Mr. Dorn, your statements  
23 are getting' a little bit for the audience's sake.

24 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Let's have your consider-  
25 ation please.

26 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I rather am amazed at

1 your saying the Legislature passes these permissive legis-  
2 lations by the dozens. There is much deliberation on them,  
3 and I am certain that many of the Assemblymen and Senators  
4 that I know are conscientious and they don't pass permis-  
5 sive legislation for the County by the dozens.

6 SUPERVISOR DORN: I think they do.

7 SUPERVISOR HAHN: You think they do. They  
8 take their work just as hard as you take yours. I think  
9 that the motion is fine and I will support it, but in  
10 the meantime, I think we should ask our Citizen's Commit-  
11 tee to get the report back by this public hearing. I  
12 think these people are entitled to a public hearing one  
13 way or the other, and I think they should have their hear-  
14 ing and if you have something we should know about, the  
15 only way you are going to tell us is by a public hearing.  
16 Therefore, I support the motion with the idea we have the  
17 public hearing as stated, and the Citizen's Committee have  
18 the report back to us in six weeks' time.

19 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Mr. Hahn, we can't vote  
20 for the substitute motion and continue to have the hear-  
21 ing because this motion takes place of the hearing.

22 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Why can't that substitute  
23 be amended to include out Citizen's Committee on hospitals  
24 and to review it pending the date of the public hearing  
25 and go ahead with the public hearing. I think everyone  
26 wants to have a public hearing.

1 SUPERVISOR FORD: I agree with that, but  
2 I don't think the Citizen's Committee should be made a  
3 substitute for this hearing.

4 SUPERVISOR DORN: No.. I think if, in the  
5 judgment of the Citizen's Committee, that we all have  
6 confidence in, we just appointed them and commended their  
7 activities, if in their judgment this Board should hold  
8 hearings and pursue further the need as demonstrated by  
9 their findings, then we should hold a hearing. I think  
10 there should be at least two months' notice given and  
11 these people should be given ample chance to be heard.

12 CHAIRMAN CHACE: But your motion, if it  
13 carries, it does not commit this Board to a public hear-  
14 ing.

15 SUPERVISOR DORN: How in the world could I  
16 refer something to a committee and tell them what to do  
17 after I referred it to them?

18 CHAIRMAN CHACE: I want to make that clear.

19 SUPERVISOR DORN: I want to have the Com-  
20 mittee a free hand to recommend as best they can as to  
21 this Board's action. I am not going to make a motion to  
22 tell the Committee what to do. This is not the function  
23 of the Citizen's Committee.

24 SUPERVISOR FORD: May I ask Mr. Leach who  
25 submitted the details of the Bill? Are we approaching  
26 any deadlines on this thing?



1 MR. LEACH: I think there is a deadline of  
2 April thirtieth to submit any program you might have in  
3 mind in next year's budget so the State would have reim-  
4 bursements of money.

5 SUPERVISOR FORD: We would have to make up  
6 our minds by next year. That is the physical year, by  
7 April thirtieth. That is, the next physical year. I would  
8 amend Mr. Dorn's motion to the effect that we ask the  
9 Citizen's Hospital Committee to review this and be prepared  
10 to bring to the public hearing, or supply us in advance  
11 with a written appraisal and estimate of their opinion of  
12 this Bill, and the action that they recommend, either in  
13 writing or at the public hearing.

14 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Well, the amendment is a  
15 little complicated. Do you have it Mr. Clerk?

16 MR. NESVIG: Mr. Ford, I believe you would  
17 have to actually set the public hearing. This has not been  
18 done yet in your motion.

19 SUPERVISOR FORD: Public hearing for April  
20 twenty-fourth.

21 MR. NESVIG: Refer to the Citizen's Hospital  
22 Advisory Committee for their consideration and report to  
23 the Board prior to a public hearing which will be set on  
24 April 24, 1958, at 9:30 A.M.

25 CHAIRMAN CHACE: That would be the amend-  
26 ment to Mr. Dorn's substitute, is that correct, is that

1 where we are? Am I correct on that?

2 MR. MAHARG: That is my understanding.

3 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Okay, I want to follow  
4 protocol here. I don't believe I can support it myself.  
5 Are you ready for the question? Call the roll on amend-  
6 ment.

7 SUPERVISOR DORN: I would like to ask John  
8 what is the intent of the amendment?

9 SUPERVISOR FORD: We want to find out what  
10 the Citizen's Committee thinks of this deal.

11 SUPERVISOR DORN: That is what my motion  
12 calls for.

13 SUPERVISOR FORD: But I am not leaving it  
14 up to them to make the final decision. We will make the  
15 final decision.

16 SUPERVISOR DORN: But can't we have a re-  
17 port from them?

18 SUPERVISOR FORD: Not and get it all in by  
19 the thirtieth of April.

20 CHAIRMAN CHACE: That is public hearing.  
21 I don't feel we need a public hearing as I interpreted  
22 the amendment. I am not prepared at the present time to  
23 call that. Are you ready for the amendment?

24 SUPERVISOR DORN: I would much prefer my  
25 motion.

26 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Are you ready for the

1 amendment to the question? Call the roll on the amend-  
2 ment to the substitute.

3 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Hahn.

4 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Aye.

5 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Ford

6 SUPERVISOR FORD: Aye.

7 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Dorn.

8 SUPERVISOR DORN: No.

9 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Chace.

10 CHAIRMAN CHACE: No. Motion lost.

11 Now on the substitute motion referring this  
12 whole matter to the Citizen's Committee known as our  
13 Hospital Citizen's Committee.

14 SUPERVISOR HAHN: That was the substitution?

15 MR. NESVIG: Mr. Dorn's motion left out the  
16 hearing Mr. Hahn.

17 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I don't see what is wrong  
18 with a public hearing. These people have a right to ex-  
19 press themselves. What are we afraid of, letting the  
20 people talk? I certainly--I made a simple motion. I  
21 might disagree with you, but I want everybody to have a  
22 right to speak out and what is wrong with a public hear-  
23 ing?

24 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Would give us a substi-  
25 tute motion. If I interpreted it correct, it is referring  
26 it to the Citizen's Committee without any recommendation,

1 isn't it?

2 MR. NESVIG: For their consideration and  
3 report to the Board.

4 SUPERVISOR DORN: Not to exceed four weeks.  
5 A report within four weeks time which, in my opinion,  
6 would give us ample time to set a public hearing before the  
7 need for action by the Board, if such a hearing is in the  
8 Board's wisdom needed at that time.

9 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Mr. Chairman, I don't  
10 understand Mr. Dorn at all. Here he voted against referring  
11 this to the Committee with setting a date for public  
12 hearing that everyone here will know the date and they  
13 can come back; now, you just want to refer it to them  
14 without giving a notice or ample time so these people can  
15 adjust their schedule to come back down here.

16 Now my motion was just to set a certain  
17 date at a certain time, and in the meantime refer it to  
18 the Committee to have the report back by that time, but  
19 go ahead and have a public hearing.

20 CHAIRMAN CHACE: We will probably get to  
21 your motion after a bit, your original motion for an in-  
22 formal public hearing.

23 Now, we have a substitute motion by Mr.  
24 Dorn referring this matter to our Citizen's Committee on  
25 hospitals to report within four weeks.

26 SUPERVISOR DORN: Make it three weeks.

1 SUPERVISOR FORD: I think I will concede  
2 this much. If you want to wait to decide on a public  
3 hearing until you hear from the Committee--personally, I  
4 think we are going to have a public hearing, but if you  
5 want to wait and see what they say and then made the  
6 determination as to a public hearing, and I think I can go  
7 along with that.

8 SUPERVISOR DORN: John, as long as this  
9 has been brought up and as long as Kenny has questioned  
10 my intention, my intent is not to refer something to a  
11 Committee and then prejudge how they are going to recommend.  
12 This committee may, in my opinion, recommend in favor or  
13 against depending upon their findings and I don't think we  
14 should tie them to something when we refer something to  
15 them. In other words, if we are committing ourselves to  
16 a program, why refer at all?

17 SUPERVISOR FORD: I am not committed to the  
18 program.

19 SUPERVISOR HAHN: We just want a public  
20 hearing.

21 SUPERVISOR FORD: We are asking for a public  
22 hearing.

23 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Will the Clerk read the  
24 substitute motion that will be before us please.

25 MR. NESVIG: Refer to the Citizen's Hospital  
26 Advisory Committee for their consideration and report to

1 the Board within the time of three weeks.

2 SUPERVISOR DORN: As to their recommendations.

3 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I also resent Mr. Dorn  
4 saying we are telling our Citizen's Committee we are pre-  
5 judging and telling them how to decide it. We just wanted  
6 their comments on it.

7 SUPERVISOR DORN: That is all we want. That  
8 is all I want.

9 SUPERVISOR HAHN: I think we are just making  
10 a much to-do about nothing. I will vote for it and have a  
11 report back, but I still think these people are entitled  
12 to a public hearing.

13 SUPERVISOR DORN: I will listen to them  
14 right now.

15 CHAIRMAN CHACE: We have a question on the  
16 motion. The motion to refer to the Citizen's Committee,  
17 is it three weeks or four weeks?

18 MR. NESVIG: Three weeks.

19 CHAIRMAN CHACE: Call the roll on the sub-  
20 stitute motion.

21 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Hahn.

22 SUPERVISOR HAHN: Aye.

23 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Ford.

24 SUPERVISOR FORD: Aye.

25 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Dorn.

26 SUPERVISOR DORN. Aye.

1 MR. NESVIG: Supervisor Chace.

2 CHAIRMAN CHASE: Aye. So ordered. It is  
3 referred to the Citizen's Committee to report back in three  
4 weeks, Citizen's Committee on Hospitals, so there will be  
5 no action here today.  
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